

Becoming an NPEP Community Partner

Nonprofit organizations or community groups *(that have been active for more than 2 years)* interested in joining the NPEP Community should visit mdem.maryland.gov or email npep.mdem@maryland.gov to request the registration link/QR code. Each inquiring organization must fully complete the 3-step registration process before being welcomed into the NPEP Community: **1)** Complete the NPEP Registration Form, **2)** Await review and receive confirmation, **3)** Complete the required NPEP Community Partner forum.

Is My Organization Eligible to Join?

At this time, the NPEP is open to nonprofit & community organizations that have received and retained IRS tax-exemption status for at least 2 years, are **in good standing**, and have **provided a public service in their community for at least 2 years**. "Good standing" means being in compliance with all applicable Maryland laws relating to charities.

Why the Registration Process?

Before an organization can be fully integrated into the NPEP, it must complete the registration process described above. The process is in place to ensure each applying member is examined for its organizational mission and demonstrated community work ethic. The review process helps protect Marylanders and existing Community Partners alike, by thoroughly vetting each applicant. *(This is the product of best practices and guidelines imposed by the Charity Division of the Office of Maryland's Secretary of State.)*

What's Expected of a Community Partner?

NPEP Community Partners play an intricate role in helping emergency managers understand the diverse community needs and work in partnership to meet them before, during, and after an emergency or crisis. Partners are expected to leverage their strong community relationships and local knowledge to promote a culture of preparedness, and may also assist in Maryland disaster or emergency planning and/or recovery activities. Partners are expected to use information provided via this program in good faith efforts intended to support MD communities.

NPEP FAQs

Nonprofit Engagement Program

NPEP Benefits

Benefits for NPEP Community Partners include:

- Training/exercise opportunities tailored to community needs
- Resilience-strengthening capacity building & continuity resources
- Timely situational & incident awareness updates to help protect your community during an emergency
- Notice of funding and grant opportunities
- Whole community partnership to support & encourage communities working together

Can New Organizations Participate?

A "new" organization is one that has either: **1)** Not yet received IRS tax-exemption status, **2)** Received its tax-exemption status between 2019 and 2022, or **3)** Not been active for 2 years or longer.

If any of those describes your nonprofit or community group, you're not yet eligible for NPEP Community Partnership. But you **can** join our **NPEP Academy!** The Academy is an opportunity for new nonprofit organizations to grow into the NPEP Community. NPEP Academy organizations are committed to gaining community recognition and working to advance their missions in those respective communities. Academy members will receive timely situational and incident awareness notifications and resources detailing best practices in public service. Academy members will be offered full NPEP Community Partner status once they reach a 2-year operational period and can demonstrate consistent public services. Organizations interested in the Academy should visit mdem.maryland.gov or email npep.mdem@maryland.gov to request their own registration link/QR code.

NPEP Lite

NPEP Lite is **only** for nonprofit organizations that would like to receive timely situational & incident awareness updates, and are **not interested** in any of the other program offerings and benefits listed above. Organizations interested in NPEP Lite membership should visit mdem.maryland.gov or email npep.mdem@maryland.gov to request their own unique registration link/QR code., as well.